(e) whether it is also a fact that in certain instances the Ministry has reduced formulations prices based on market prices of bulk drugs whereas in others they have refused to do so under pressure from the producers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) (b) and (c) The prices of bulk drugs and formulations are fixed/revised in accordance with objectives/provisions of DPCO 1987. Price revision in cases of formulations, including those notified as ceiling packs, is an ongoing work and is normally done on receipt of applications from manufacturers.

However, in cases where the Government notifies the revised price for a bulk drug or if there is change in custom duty on an imported bulk drug, suo-moto revision of formulation based on that bulk drug are undertaken.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) BICP has initiated cost-cum-technical studies to fix/revise the prices of Ranitidine, Cemitidine, Chloramphenicol and other drugs.

Proposal to Reduce Air Travel Tax

1310. SHRI NARAIN PRASAD GUPTA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) Whether a new entrant among the private airlines have reduced its fares as also the Indian Airlines on some of the sectors in South, as reported in Indian Express of 6th December, 1993;

(b) if so, the precise details of the reduction in taxes and the impact on the market alongwith the rationable;

(c) whether there is any proposal to reduce the air travel tax other levies by the National Airports Authority of India and the price undercutting on other sectors; and

(d) whether Government agrees with the view that there is a fare war among the private carriers and may lead to pre 1953 conditions and the action plan thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVAITION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) Under the existing air taxi guidelines, there is no restriction on the fare to be charged by air taxi operators. Indian Airlines offers special fares on specific sectors depending on the market situation.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

Saving of Liquor by Private Airlines

1311. SHRI NARAIN PRASAD GUPTA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whather Government's attention has been drawn to the news item reported in, various newspapers in January this year regarding safety code for air taxis;

(b) if so, the precise new as well old safety guidelines;

(c) what are the guidelines given to the public sector Indian Airlines and how they differ with those in the private sector; and

(d) whether some of the private airlines have been permitted to serve hard liquor and beer; if so, what are the results of such service in getting more passengers or in creations difficulties for co-passengers, including ladies/children who do not drank and the nature of complaints received alongwith action taken ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The safety requirements are under close review to meet general and specific requirements. There is no difference in safety requirements between public sector and private sector operators.

(d) The Aircraft Rules, 1937, do not prohibit serving of liquor during flights. The air carriers are expected to ensure that passengers are not inconvenienced due to serving of liquor on board.

Proposal for Medium Aircraft

1312. SHRI NARAIN PRASAD GUPTA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has examined the proposal to bring in medium size aircraft with the help of NRI's as suggested by him at a seminar in Delhi on December 28, 1993;

(b) if so, what are the ramifications of this suggestion and how Government propose to implement it, both in the public and the private sector; and

(c) what is the fleet strength and operation of the Vayudoot vis-a-vis the private airlines and the fleet each one of them alongwith load factor actually used in the last two years ;

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM HABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) This was only a suggestion to the NRIs/Private Air Taxi operators. Their response is awaited.

(c) Under the existing guidelines, Air Taxi operators are not required to submit the details of the load factors obtaining on their flight. Vayudoot's operations at present are limited as most of their aircraft are grounded. Therefore, it is not feasible to provide any meaningful comparison between operations of Vayudoot and Air Taxi opertors.

Schemes of the Airlines for Attracting Passengers

1313. SHRI NARAIN PRASAD GUPTA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether public sector and the private sector airlines in the country have prepared schemes to attract passengers, following competition generated;

(b) if so, the details of the schemes declared by each of the public and private sector airlines and the results achieved: and

(c) whether Government propose to regulate the route performance of all the airlines in order to obtain optimum utilisation of the selling capacity rather than the flights going partially utilised wasting precious energy ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) Public sector airlines and private air taxi operators have implemented different schemes to improve their market share, in the competitive environment.

(b) Air India and Indian Airlines offer special fares and packages on certain routes to improve their business. Private air taxi operators are not required to furnish such information to the Government.

(c) There is no specific proposal under consideration of the Government at present.

Construction/Modernisation of Lilabani Airport

1314. SHRI NYODEK YONGGAM: Will the Minister of CIVIAL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Assam has allotted land for the constructions/modernisation of Lilabani Airport in Assam and had also assured to provide other necessary facilities for the purpose; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) Government of Assam have earmarked 80 bighas of land belonging to the State Government and 56 bighas of land belonging to the private parties for upgradation of Lilabani Airport. While the land belonging to the State Government will be given free of cost to National Airports Authority (NAA), the private parties are to be paid compensation for acquisition of their land. Rs. 18.47 lakhs have already been deposited by NAA with the Government of Assam for acquisition of private and. Land is yet to be handed over to NAA.

Misbehaviour by Air hostesses of Air India and Indian Airlines

1315. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received complaints regarding misbehaviour by Air hostesses of Air India and Indian Airlines;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; during 1993, till 31st January, 1994, sectorwise;

(c) the details of action taken or proposed to be taken by Government on these complaints; and

(d) if no action has been taken, the reason therefor ?